

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Mir A. Imran et al.
 Appl. No. : 09/438030
 Filed : November 10, 1999
 For : METHODS FOR REDUCING
 DISTAL EMBOLIZATION
 Examiner : Unknown



Group Art Unit 3734

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
 Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Please amend the above-referenced application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. [In a] A method for the treatment of [emboli or other] an occlusion in a blood vessel, comprising:

[in which] prior to performing treatment on the occlusion, crossing the occlusion [is crossed by] with a guidewire[,] while [the improvement comprising] aspirating [while crossing said occlusion.] blood, so that blood flows past the occlusion; and treating the occlusion.

2. [In the] The method of Claim 1, [wherein the improvement comprises] comprising aspirating while crossing said occlusion with the guidewire in a proximal to distal direction.